

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 AID-05 TRSE-00 DOE-11
SOE-02 /103 W

-----112206 011231Z /11

R 010601Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 931
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0778

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, YS
SUBJECT: SAUDI VIEWS ON SITUATION IN SOUTH YEMEN

REF: (A) TEHRAN 971 (B) STATE 20227 (C) JIDDA 388

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-RAHMAN MANSOURI TOLD
POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON JANUARY 31 THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH
IN REPORT THAT SAG HAD DECIDED TO RESUME AID TO PDRY. HE
REITERATED PREVIOUS INFORMATION REPORTED REF C THA SAG
HAD GIVEN PDRY 50 MILLION DOLLARS AS INITIAL GRANT AND HAD
AGREED TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL AID FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS,
PROVIDED PDRY MOVED AWAY FROM SOVIETS. THUS FAR, PDRY HAS
NOT RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO SAUDI GESTURES, AND SAG HAS
SLOWED DOWN ITS CONSIDERATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.
QUESTION IS NOW PLOITICAL, WHETHER SAG SHOULD TERMINATE
EVEN ITS CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER AID OR WHETHER INSTEAD
IT SHOULD SPEED UP PROCESS AND APPROVE SOME PROJECTS.

2. MANSOURI WAS PERSONALLY PSSSIMISTIC ABOUT WAY THINGS
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WERE MOVING IN PDRY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO HIM, ABD AL-FATTAH ISMAIL IS GRADUALLY INFILTRATING
HIS SUPPORTERS INTO KEY PLACES IN PDRY GOVERNMENT, AND
SALIM RUBAYI ALI WILL BE COMPLETELY ISOLATED OR ELSE
REMOVED FROM GOVERNMENT BY SPRING. PDRY SEEMS TO BE
FOLLOWING SOVIET LINE COMPLETELY.

3. DESPITE PESSIMISM, MANSOURI SAID SAG HAD STILL NOT COMPLETELY GIVEN UP HOPE ON PDRY. SAG IS STILL TRYING TO MEDIATE BETWEEN PDRY AND OMAN IN HOPES OF GETTING THEM TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND GETTING PDRY TO CEASE SUPPORTING DHOFARI LEBERATION FRONT. SAG HOPES TO GET PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER UP TO SAUDI ARABIA WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS TO DISCUSS PDRY-OMANI RELATIONS. IF THIS DOES NOT WORK OUT, SAG HOPES TO GET PDRY AND OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER TOGETHER AT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN MARCH. IN SAUDI VIEW, THIS WILL BE ANOTHER TEST OF PDRY INTENTIONS. SINCE SAG HAS ALREADY FAILED THREE TIMES IN GETTING SOUTH YEMENIS AND OMANIS TOGETHER, MANSOURI WAS NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC THAT IT WOULD WORK THIS TIME.

4. MANSOURI SAID DEBATE WITHIN SAG WAS STILL GOING ON WHETHER TO USE CARROT OR STICK. IF THERE IS WILLINGNESS ON PART OF PDRY TO COMPOSE ITS DIFFERENCES WITH OMAN, THEN OBVIOUSLY SAG WILL EXTEND FURTHER AID TO PDRY. EVEN IF PDRY DOES NOT PASS THIS TEST, THERE ARE THOSE WITHIN SAG WHO THINK THAT AID SHOULD BE RESUMED AS CARROT. THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO SAY THAT ALL CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER AID SHOULD BE TERMINATED AS STICK. MANSOURI THOUGHT QUESTION WOULD BE RESOLVED AND DECISION MADE BY END OF MARCH.

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